

Mont. 16-12-16

Peters Blacksmith Shop (Site)  
Martinsburg  
Private

1870's

On this site once stood the blacksmith shop that was operated by John Peters, a Negro landowner in Martinsburg. It was a one room building with forge and a fenced yard outside for horses and mules that were to be shoed. It was one of the centers of the Martinsburg community.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Peters' Blacksmith Shop Site

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South side of White's Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles S. Case

Telephone #: 762-6346

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o M.C. Cahoon  
1006 Aster Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 757

Folio #: 80

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M. 16-12-6

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☒ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

According to Lemuel Graham, who was born in 1894 in Martinsburg, the blacksmith shop of his grandfather, John Peters, once stood at the south-east corner of Elmer School Road and White's Ferry Road. Nothing remains above ground. The site is now pasture.

According to Graham, his grandfather's shop was a small, one room shed with a fenced yard for the horses and mules that were to be shoed. Inside of the work-shed was a large forge with bellows.

Unfortunately, none of the many tools that were once used in this shop remain in the Graham family, nor have any been found in the community. Mrs. Evelyn Herbert in Martinsburg does have a small iron (for ironing), the strap handle of which was repaired in this shop by her uncle Willie Hood. It was photographed and may be seen among the Hood-Herbert photographs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M: 16-12-16

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This site was one of the centers of the Black community of Martinsburg. It is among the few blacksmith shop sites operated by a Negro blacksmith to have been found in the state. It would be an important site for archeological excavation. Census records of 1860 should be examined for the name and occupation of John Peters to substantiate the family tradition that he was a free Negro blacksmith before Emancipation. The 1867 census of freed slaves in Montgomery County does not list the adult John Peters, but it does list his children -- they were identified by his grandson Lemuel Graham. Though Lemuel's mother is not listed, her brothers and sisters were, as former slaves of Sarah A. Poole: Charles, born 1855; Ann, born 1857; Maria, born 1858; John, born 1861; Milly, born 1863; Basil, 1866. John Peters' wife was named Julian, according to Lemuel Graham, and Julian Peters is also listed as a former slave of Sarah A. Poole. Since the status of the children followed the slave/freed status of the mother, and not the father, it is possible that John Peters was a free Negro and his wife and children slaves. Though he was not listed in the 1860 U.S. Census in Medley District, it is possible that he was missed in the census taking.

**NOTE:**

According to Evelyn Hood Herbert of Martinsburg, John Poole, a white shopkeeper, owned the blacksmith shop. When she was young in the early 1910's, Poole rented it to Charlie Thompson (her father's uncle) and to William Hood (her father's brother). They were the practicing blacksmiths at this shop during her youth, and they repaired the (cast) iron that she still has, that belonged to her mother. Charlie Thompson was the son of Albert Thompson, whose log house has been surveyed in Martinsburg.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
 Deed: 757/80.  
 1867 U.S. Census of Freed Slaves.  
 1860 U.S. Census in Medley District.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



NAME FAIRLY TYPICAL FARMHOUSE OF AREA Near M. 16-12-16

LOCATION Rt. 107 & ELMER SCHOOL RD. MARTINSBURG, Md

FACADE N.

PHOTO TAKEN 5/30/73 M. DWYER

21/17





M. 16-12-16

Life of John Peters

Blacksmith Shop

M-16-12-15

Martinsburg, Md.

6/178 GWM

1-19533-#25